

593



BENDIS
CASELLI
MALEEV
GRACIA

THE INVINCIBLE

IRON MAN

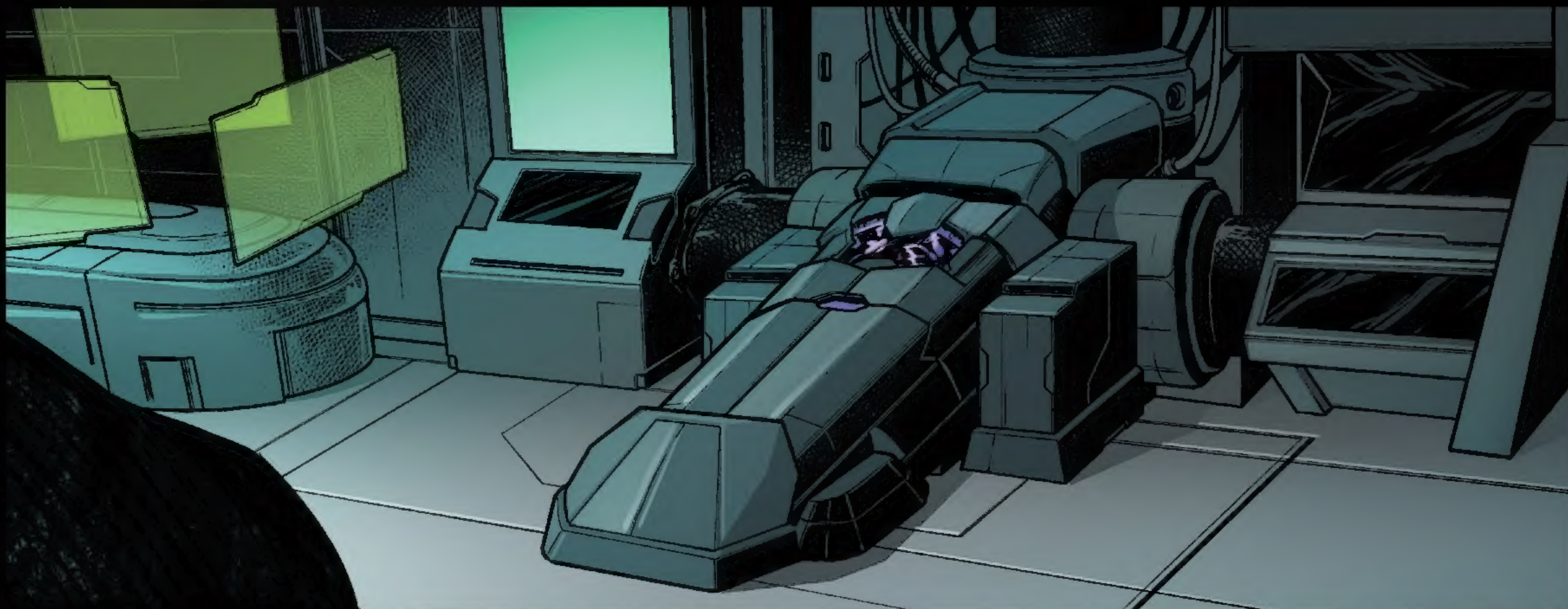
TM





STARK
FACILITY.

DOVER, NEW JERSEY.



"GOOD
MORNING."

"TONY STARK CONTINUES HIS
MEDICALLY UNEXPLAINABLE
PROLONGED STATE OF
UNCONSCIOUSNESS."

HE FELL IN BATTLE. SOME SECRET ARMOR-BASED EXPERIMENTATION TO HIS BIOLOGY OVER THE YEARS SEEMS TO HAVE SAVED HIS LIFE. FOR NOW, BUT HE REMAINS UNRESPONSIVE TO HIS ENVIRONMENT.

HE HAS NO BRAIN INJURY, NO INCREASED PRESSURE, NO BLEEDING, NO LOSS OF OXYGEN.

BUT EVEN I, FRIDAY, THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT HELPS RUN HIS EVERY DAY, DO NOT KNOW WHAT HE DID TO HIMSELF OR WHAT WE CAN DO. ON OUR END, TO HELP BRING HIM BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS.

IT'S VERY FRUSTRATING.

IN THE MEANTIME, MISS RIRI WILLIAMS HAS EXCELLED IN HER NEW, CHOSEN ROLE AS IRONHEART.

WE HAVE OFFERED HER A HOME AT STARK INTERNATIONAL BUT SHE HAS NOT TOLD US HER FUTURE PLANS.

HER PERSONALITY TYPE AND SOME OF HER BOLDER CHOICES CONCERN ME, BUT SHE HAS REMAINED SUCCESSFUL IN SPITE OF SOME CALCULABLE OPDS.

THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RUNNING HER ARMOR IS THE DOWNLOADED I.D. AND CONSCIOUSNESS OF TONY STARK HIMSELF. TONY'S EGO, UNCHECKED BY A PHYSICAL BODY, HAS STARTED TO SHOW SOME GLITCHES, BUT I HAVE MY EYE ON IT.

MEANWHILE, VICTOR VON DOOM, THE MOST NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL OF THIS LAST CENTURY, SEEMS TO BE LOOKING FOR PERSONAL REDEMPTION.

AFTER A LIFETIME OF ATROCITIES, HE'S USING TONY STARK'S IRON MAN PERSONA AND ARMOR, IN TRIBUTE, AS HIS WAY OF DOING SO.

AGAIN, IT IS ALL VERY FRUSTRATING.

BUT TODAY IS DIFFERENT. TODAY...

THE SEARCH FOR TONY STARK PART ONE

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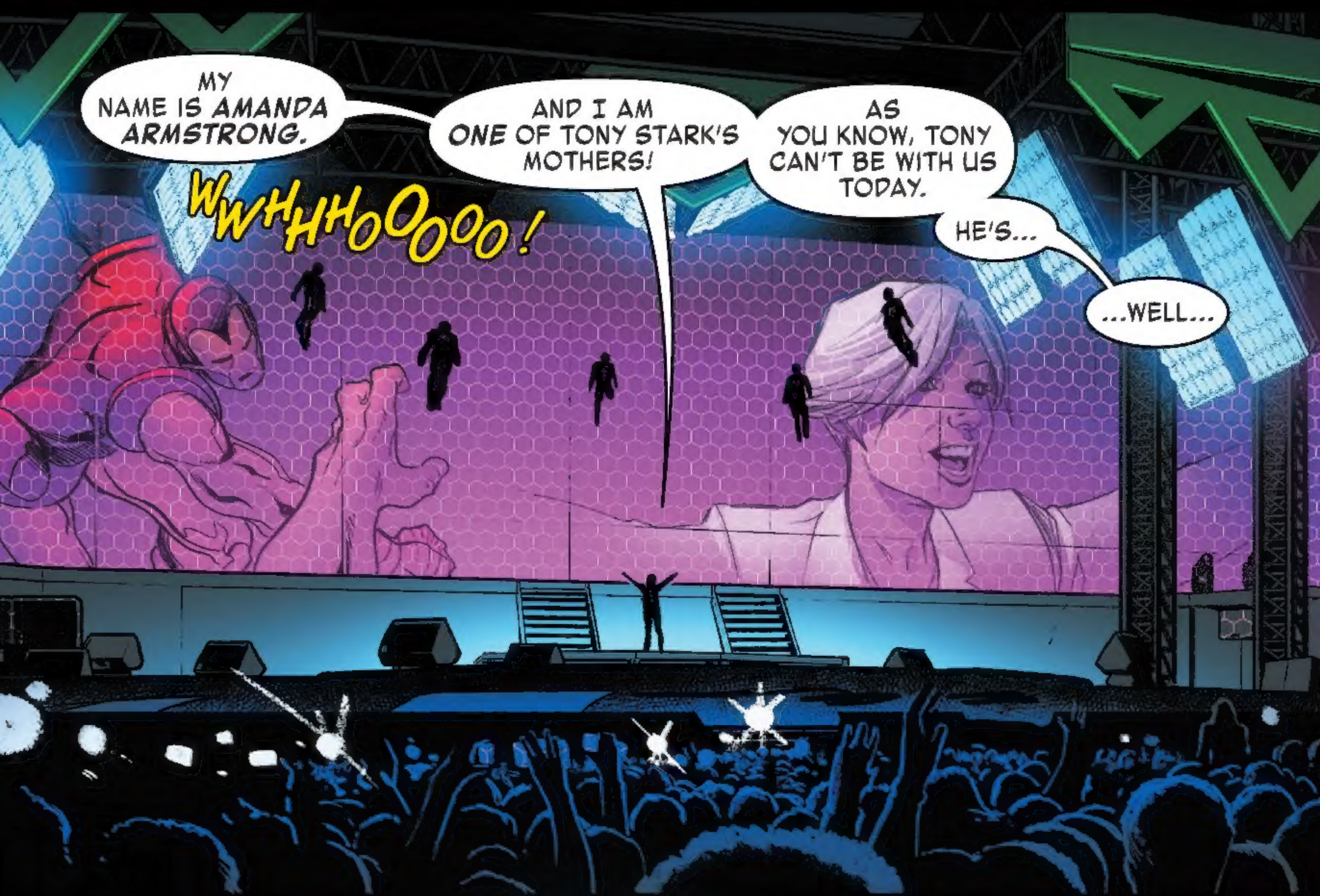
EXEC. PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK & JACK KIRBY



HELLO, PEOPLE
OF NEW YORK AND
EVERYONE WATCHING
US AROUND THE
WORLD!

WELCOME TO
THE ANNUAL TONY
STARK INTERNATIONAL
SCIENCES
EXPO!



MY NAME IS AMANDA ARMSTRONG.

AND I AM ONE OF TONY STARK'S MOTHERS!

AS YOU KNOW, TONY CAN'T BE WITH US TODAY.

HE'S...

...WELL...

WWHHOOOO!



OH, NO.



HOLD IT TOGETHER...



HEY, SO...

IF ANY OF YOU INVENTED ANYTHING THAT WILL BRING HIM BACK TO US...

...THEN YOU WIN THE EXPO.



BEING HERE, WITH YOU, IS SO-- IT IS SO ODD.

AS SOME OF YOU KNOW, I HAD JUST REUNITED WITH MY SON WHEN HE WAS STRUCK DOWN.

FIGHTING FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED IN.

I, LIKE YOU, LIKE EVERYONE, HAVE BEEN REELING.

BUT EVEN A STRANGER ON THE STREET KNOWS HOW IMPORTANT THIS EXPO IS TO TONY...



...SO I THOUGHT, IN HIS HONOR, WHY DON'T WE BLOW THE ROOF OFF THIS PLACE?!

WHOooo!

I HOPE YOU BROUGHT YOUR BEST!

YEEESSSS!

I HOPE YOU BROUGHT THE THUNDER AND THE LIGHTNING!

RROOOAAARR!

BECAUSE WE SURE DID!



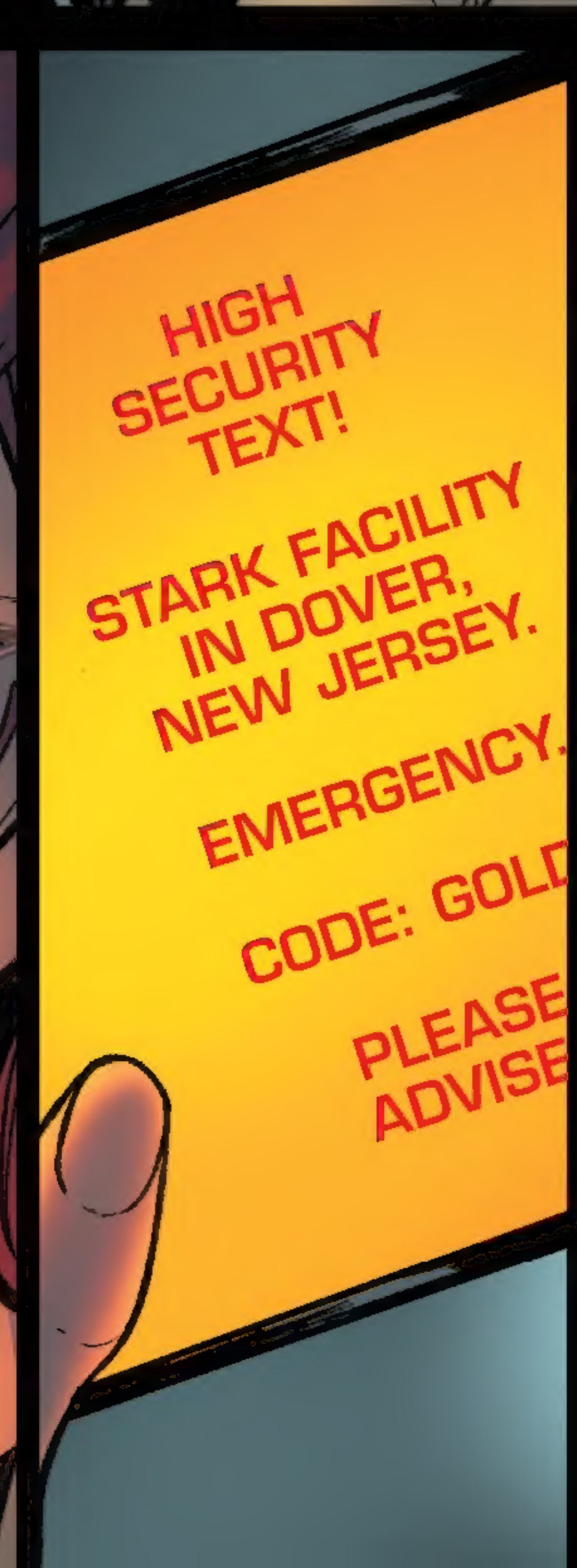
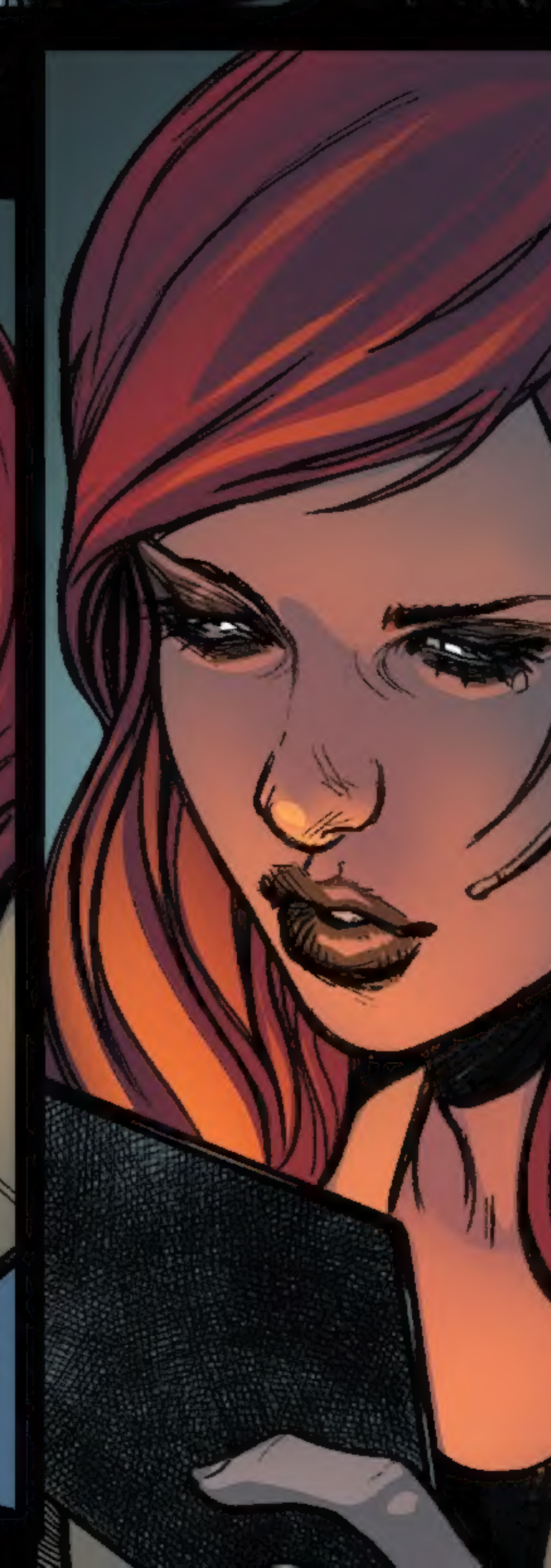
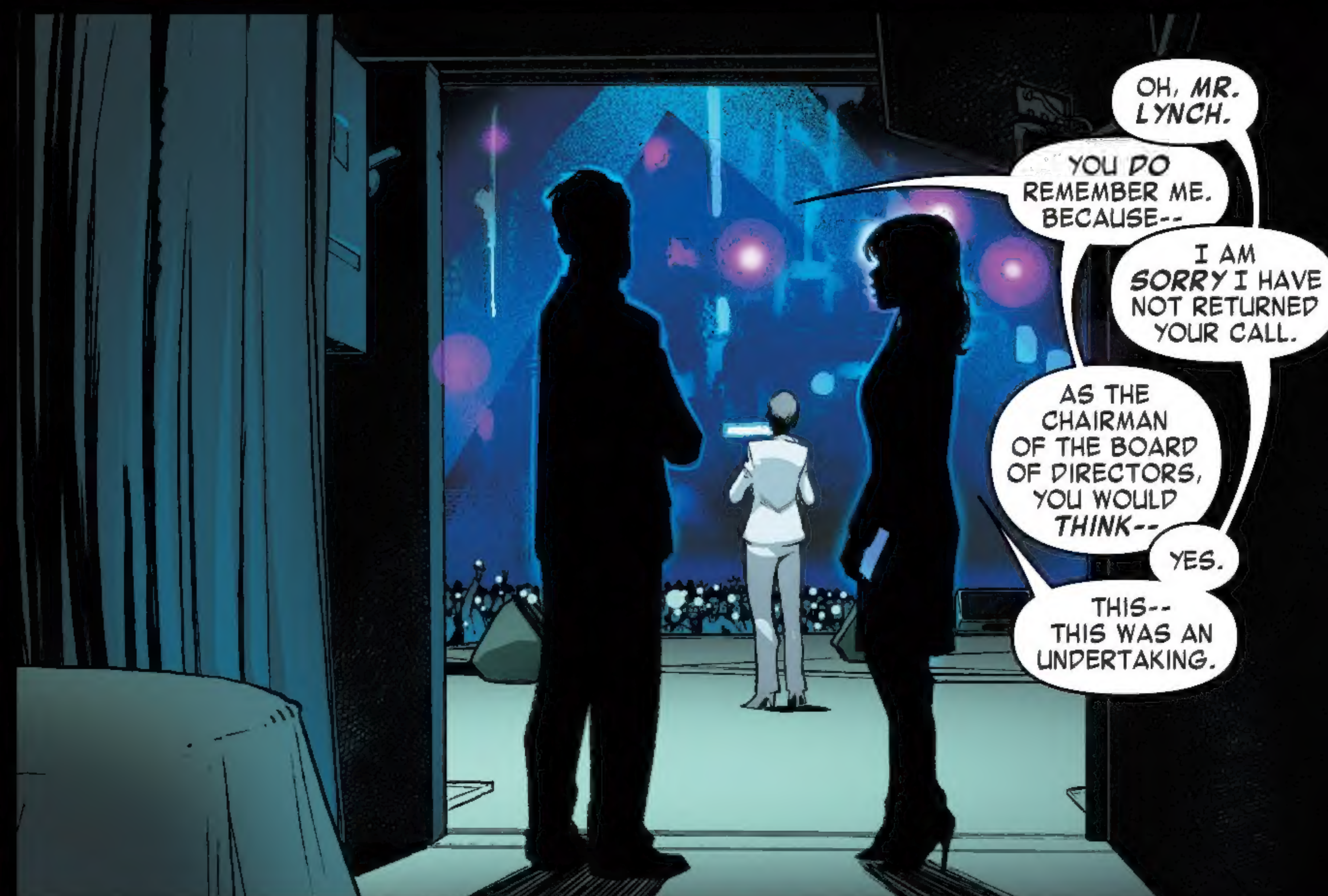
SO, THIS IS USUALLY THE PART WHERE TONY COMES DOWN IN HIS NEW FANCY ARMOR.

AND THOUGH I HOPED UPON HOPE THAT TONY WOULD MAGICALLY COME SMASHING THROUGH SOMETHING TO SAY HI TO YOU ALL...

...IN HIS ABSENCE, I ASKED A FRIEND-- A NEW FRIEND, A GOOD FRIEND-- TO COME SAY HI...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FRESH FROM JUST FREEING THE ENTIRE COUNTRY OF LATVERIA...





RYKER'S ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.

WHAT
HAPPENED?!

WHAT
DO YOU THINK
HAPPENED?

HE'S ASKING
WHAT HAPPENED
EXACTLY, WARDEN
MOSLEY.

WHAT--WHAT
HAPPENED, EXACTLY, IS
A **MASSIVE PRISON
BREAK!**

I THINK HE'S
SPECIFICALLY--

WITHOUT
S.H.I.E.L.D. HERE TO
SUPPORT US, OUR ABILITY
TO GUARD THE POWERED
PRISONERS IS--WAS
NONEXISTENT.

I TOLD
ANYONE WHO
WOULD LISTEN THAT
THIS COULD AND
WOULD HAPPEN,
BUT--

--NOW I HAVE
SEVEN DEAD MEN
AND A **BROKEN**
PRISON.

THE BUREAU
DIRECTOR HAS ASKED
FOR A THOROUGH REPORT,
IF YOU NEED A MOMENT
TO COLLECT
YOURSELF--

OH,
YOU WANT
THOROUGH!

WELL, **DOCTOR
DOOM** DRESSED
UP AS **IRON MAN** AND
DELIVERED DOZENS OF
**ALPHA-LEVEL-POWERED
VILLAINS** TO THIS
FACILITY.

MORE THAN
ANY ONE SUPER
HERO HAS EVER
DONE.

AND,
APPARENTLY,
MORE THAN
WE COULD
HANDLE.

DOCTOR
DOOM DRESSED UP
AS **IRON MAN**?

THAT'S **REAL?**

THE BUREAU
WASN'T SURE IF
IT WAS--

I
ASSURE
YOU...

...IT'S
REAL.

$



HOLY!

THERE IS
NO CAUSE FOR
ALARM!

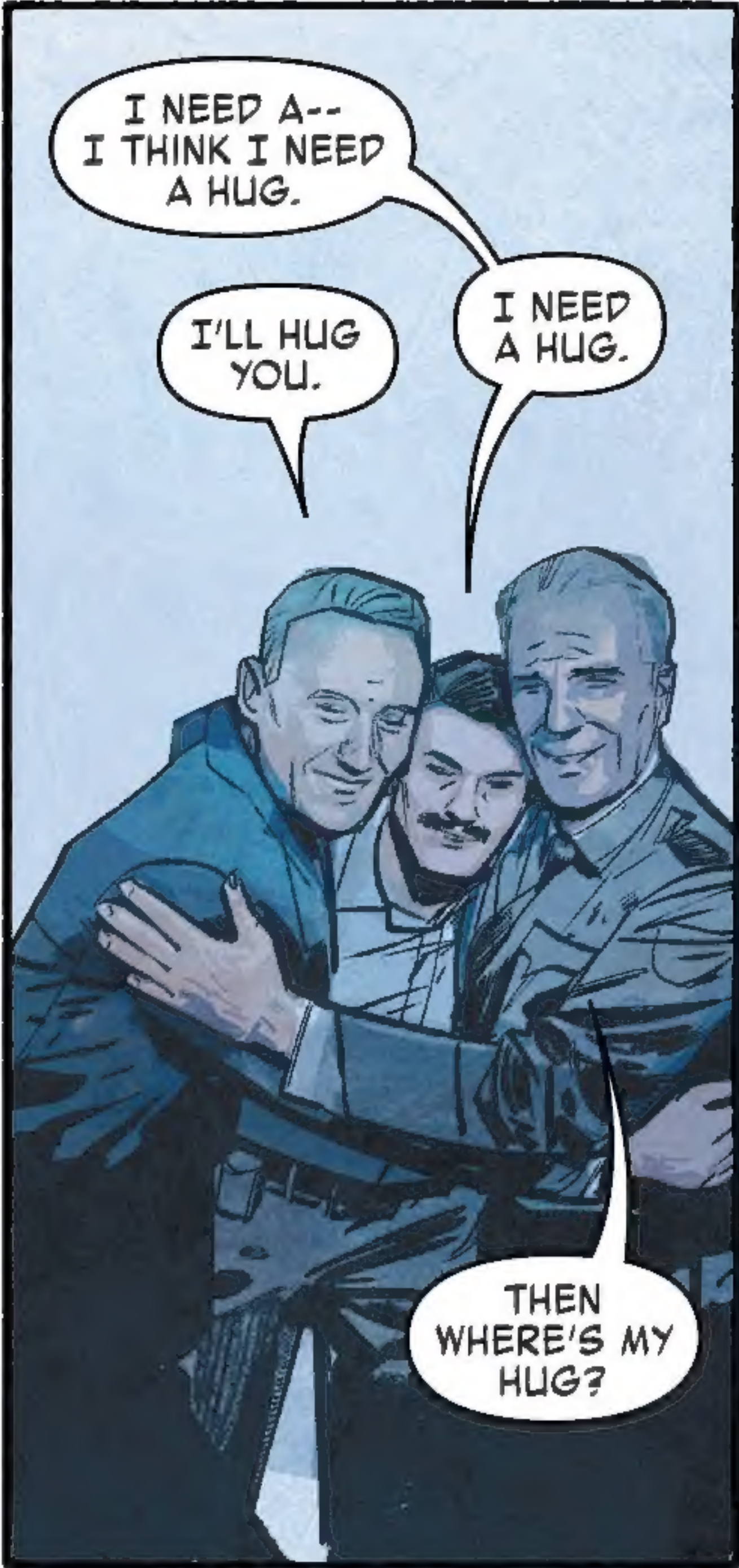


WHAT ARE
YOU WAITING
FOR?!

THAT'S
DOCTOR
DOOM!

SHOOT
HIM!

SETTLE
DOWN.



I NEED A--
I THINK I NEED
A HUG.

I'LL HUG
YOU.

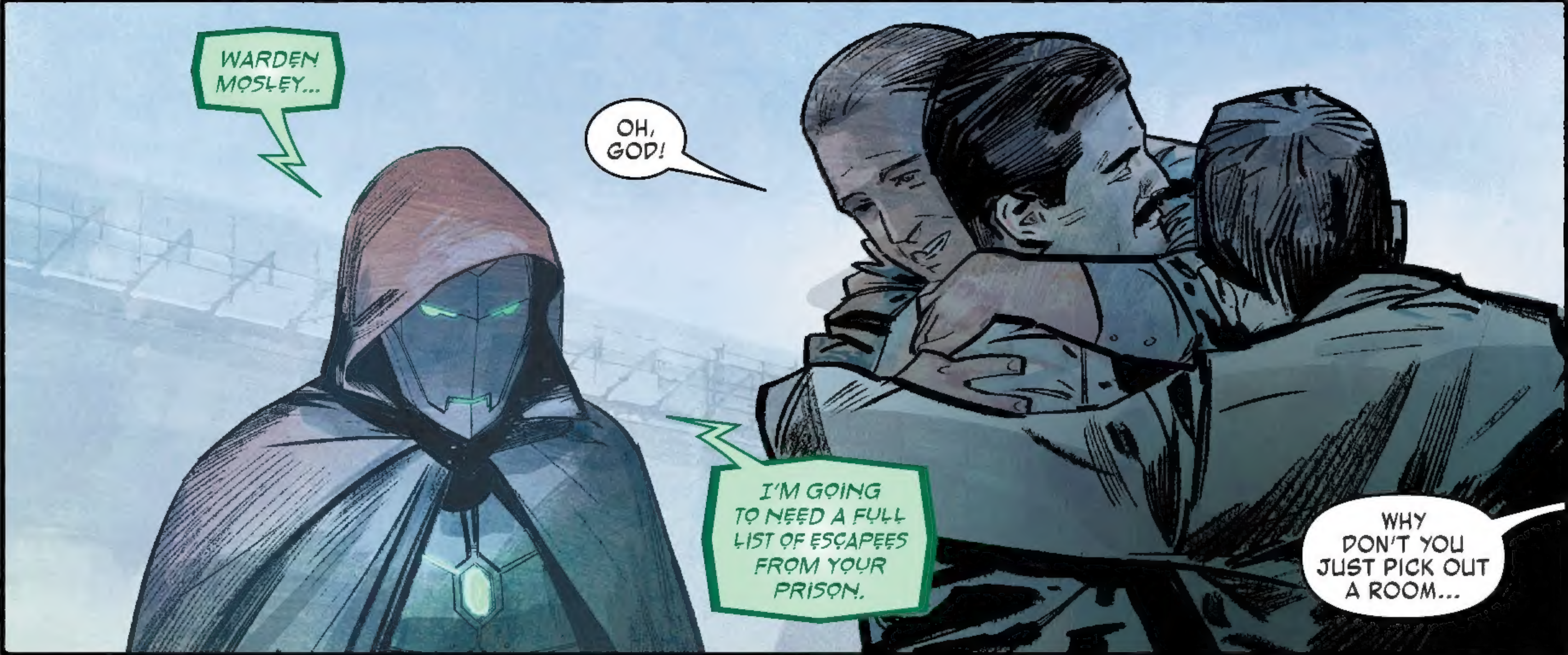
I NEED
A HUG.

THEN
WHERE'S MY
HUG?



THERE'S
NO NEED FOR
HOSTILITIES...

I WILL DO
MY FORENSICS
EXAMINATION
AND BE ON MY
WAY...



WARDEN
MOSLEY...

OH,
GOD!

I'M GOING
TO NEED A FULL
LIST OF ESCAPEES
FROM YOUR
PRISON.

WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST PICK OUT
A ROOM...



...YOU LIVE HERE NOW.

BENJAMIN, AFTER ALL YOU'VE SEEN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, MAYBE GO WITH YOUR FIRST INSTINCT AND LET ME BE.

MY FIRST INSTINCT IS TO PUNCH YOUR FACE OFF YOUR BODY.

SO ANYTHING THAT ISN'T THAT IS ME SHOWING **INCREDIBLE** RESTRAINT.



IF S.H.I.E.L.D. IS NO MORE...

...THEN YOUR JOB TO PURSUE ME FOR THEM IS NO LONGER.

YEAH.

IT'S ALMOST AS IF, WITH OUR HISTORY, I DON'T NEED A DAMN REASON TO HUNT YOU DOWN LIKE A DOG.



THE CRIMINALS I PUT IN HERE HAVE ESCAPED.

CLEARLY, THEY WILL COME FOR ME.

CLEARLY, MY LIFE IS IN GRAVE DANGER.

SO REALLY THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO MORALLY COMPROMISE YOURSELF HERE.

I AIN'T GONNA MORALLY COMPROMISE NOTHIN'!

GO HOME, BEN...

YA CLEARLY DON'T GET IT, SO I'M GONNA UP AND GIVE IT TO YA.



AIN'T NO ONE EVER GONNA FORGIVE YA FOR ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE.

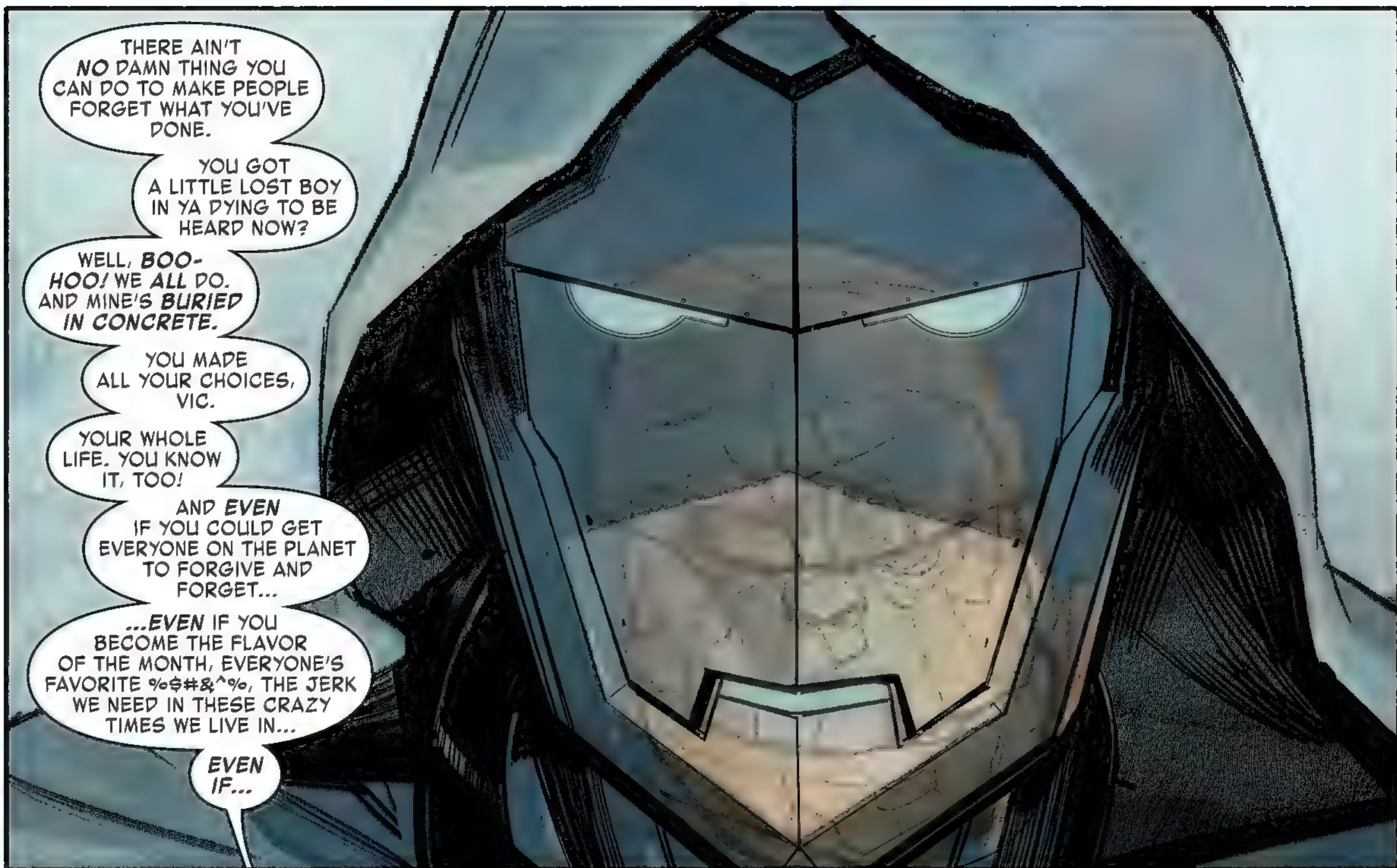
NO ONE.

NOT ME, NOT THE GUY NEXT DOOR, NOT A KITTY YOU SAVED FROM A TREE.

YOU AIN'T IRON MAN.

YOU KNOW IT AND I KNOW IT.

YOU'RE A &&&& MONSTER.



THERE AIN'T
NO DAMN THING YOU
CAN DO TO MAKE PEOPLE
FORGET WHAT YOU'VE
DONE.

YOU GOT
A LITTLE LOST BOY
IN YA DYING TO BE
HEARD NOW?

WELL, BOO-
HOO! WE ALL DO.
AND MINE'S **BURIED**
IN CONCRETE.

YOU MADE
ALL YOUR CHOICES,
VIC.

YOUR WHOLE
LIFE. YOU KNOW
IT, TOO!

AND **EVEN**
IF YOU COULD GET
EVERYONE ON THE PLANET
TO FORGIVE AND
FORGET...

...**EVEN** IF YOU
BECOME THE FLAVOR
OF THE MONTH, EVERYONE'S
FAVORITE %\$#&^%, THE JERK
WE NEED IN THESE CRAZY
TIMES WE LIVE IN...

EVEN
IF...



...YOU'LL
KNOW.

YOU'LL KNOW
THAT YOU HAD EVERY
CHANCE TO BE THE
GUY REED RICHARDS
WAS.

AND EVERY
TIME...YA BLEW
IT.

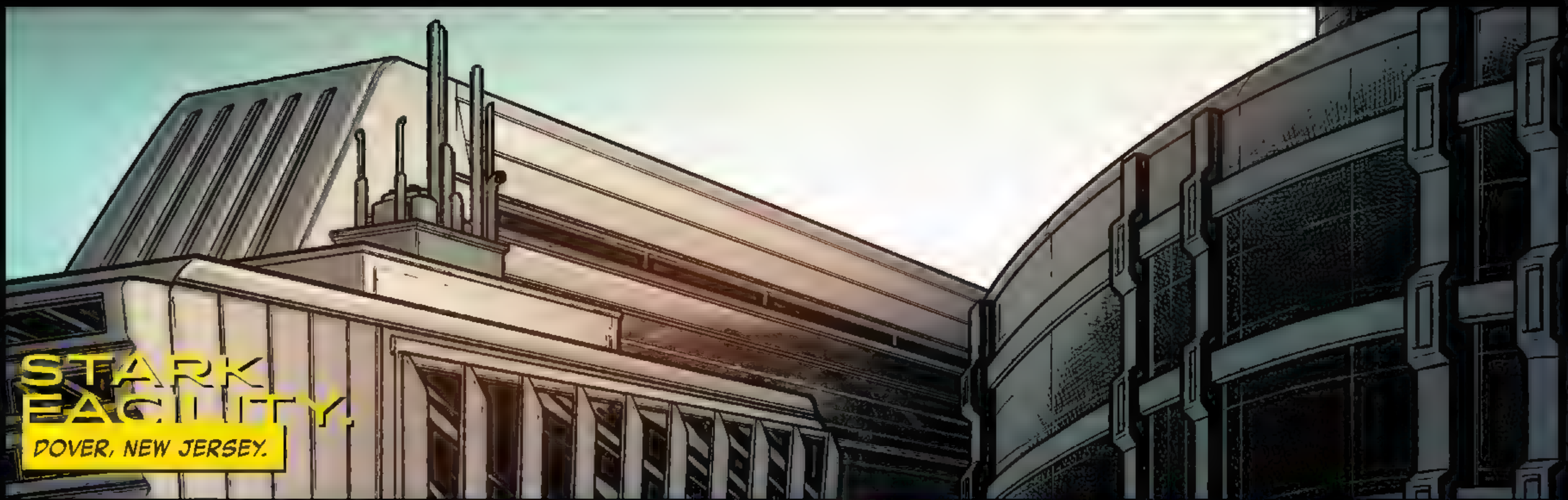


BECAUSE
THAT'S WHO YOU
ARE.

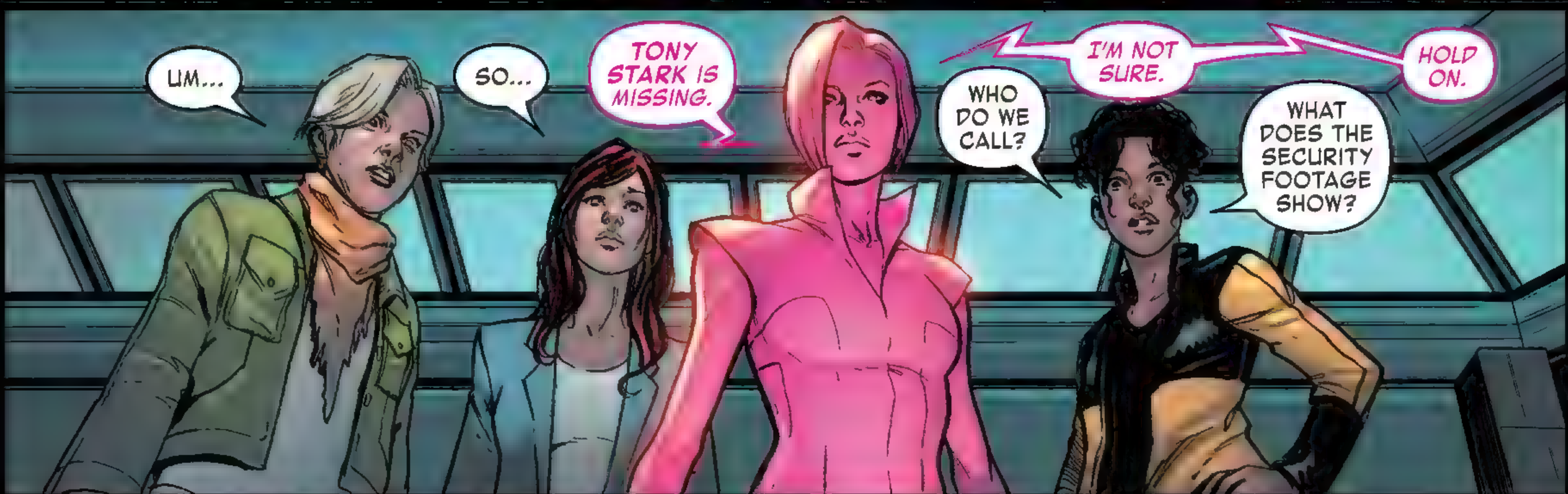
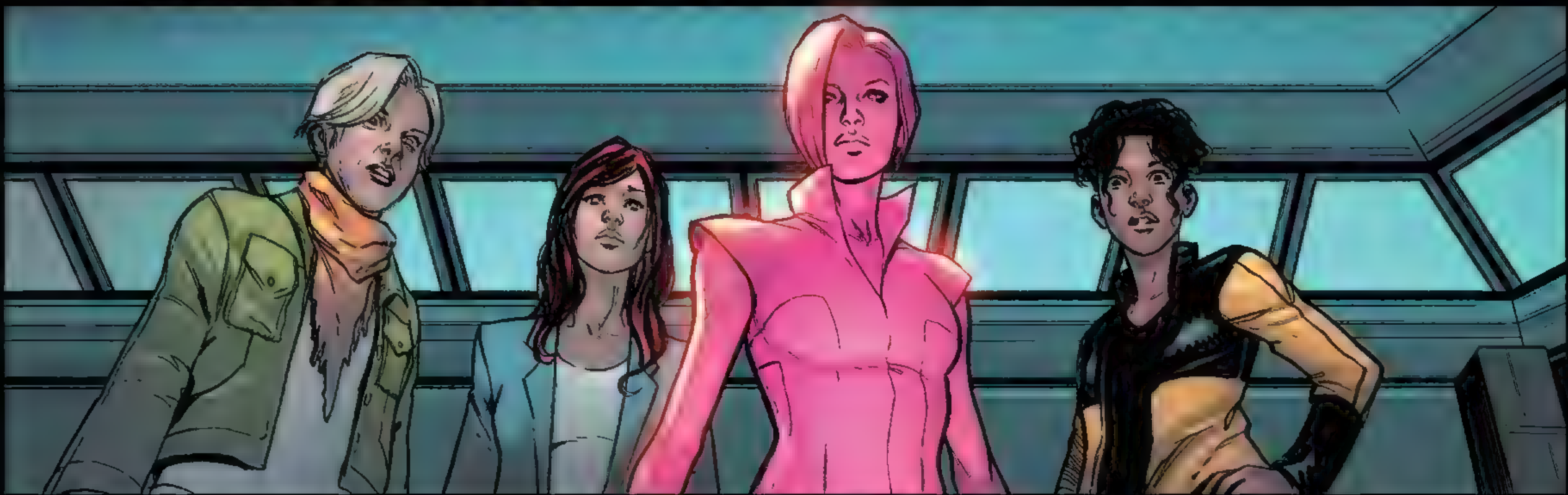
YOU KNOW.

YOU KNOW
WHO YOU REALLY
ARE.





STARK FACILITY.
DOVER, NEW JERSEY.



UM...

SO...

TONY STARK IS MISSING.

WHO DO WE CALL?

I'M NOT SURE.

HOLD ON.

WHAT DOES THE SECURITY FOOTAGE SHOW?



THE AVENGERS.

THE FBI?

HE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED.

MAYBE.

MAYBE?

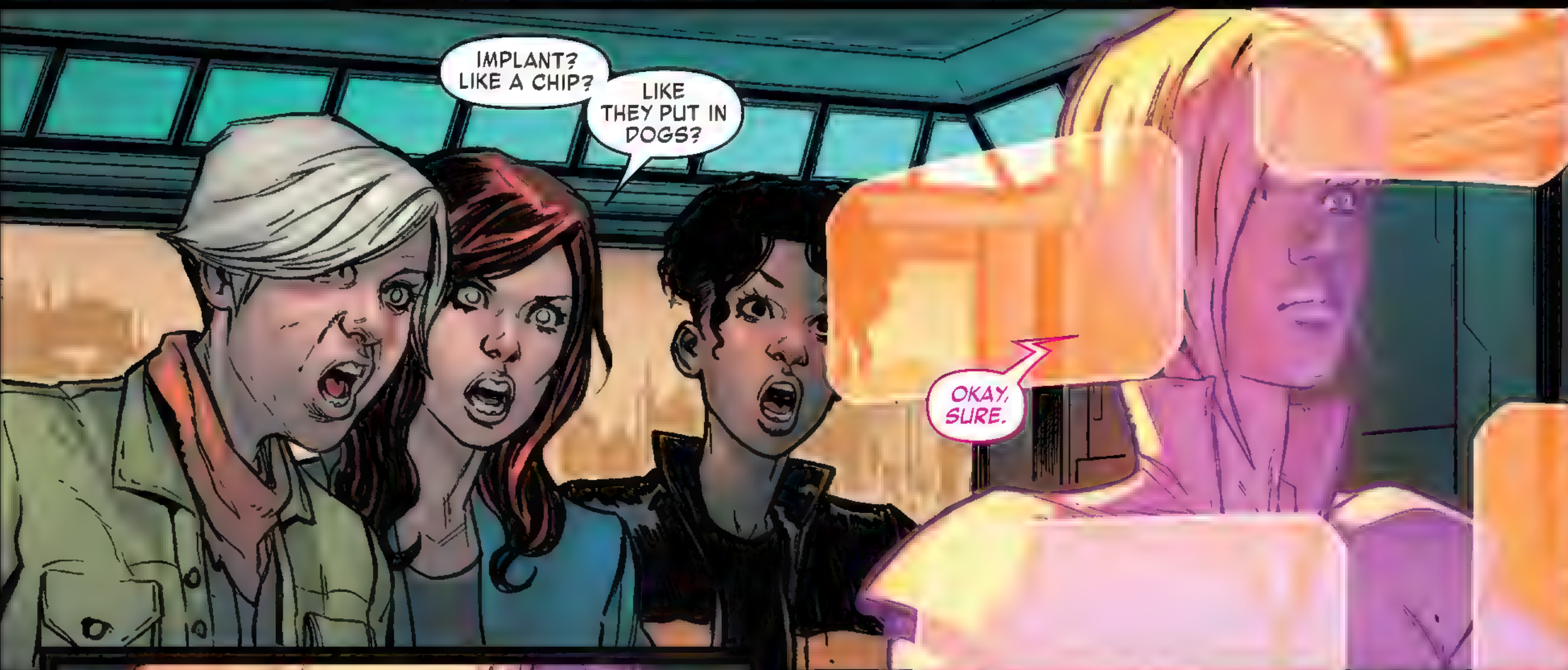
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT SURE WHO WE SHOULD CALL?



FRIDAY?
CAN YOU HEAR
US?

TONY STARK'S
BIOLOGY NOW INCLUDES
WAVOTECH IMPLANTS THAT
I HAVE DIRECT ACCESS
TO.

IN FACT, I'M
THE ONLY ONE IN
THE WORLD THAT EVEN
KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE
OR HOW TO CONNECT
TO THEM...



IMPLANT?
LIKE A CHIP?

LIKE
THEY PUT IN
DOGS?

OKAY,
SURE.



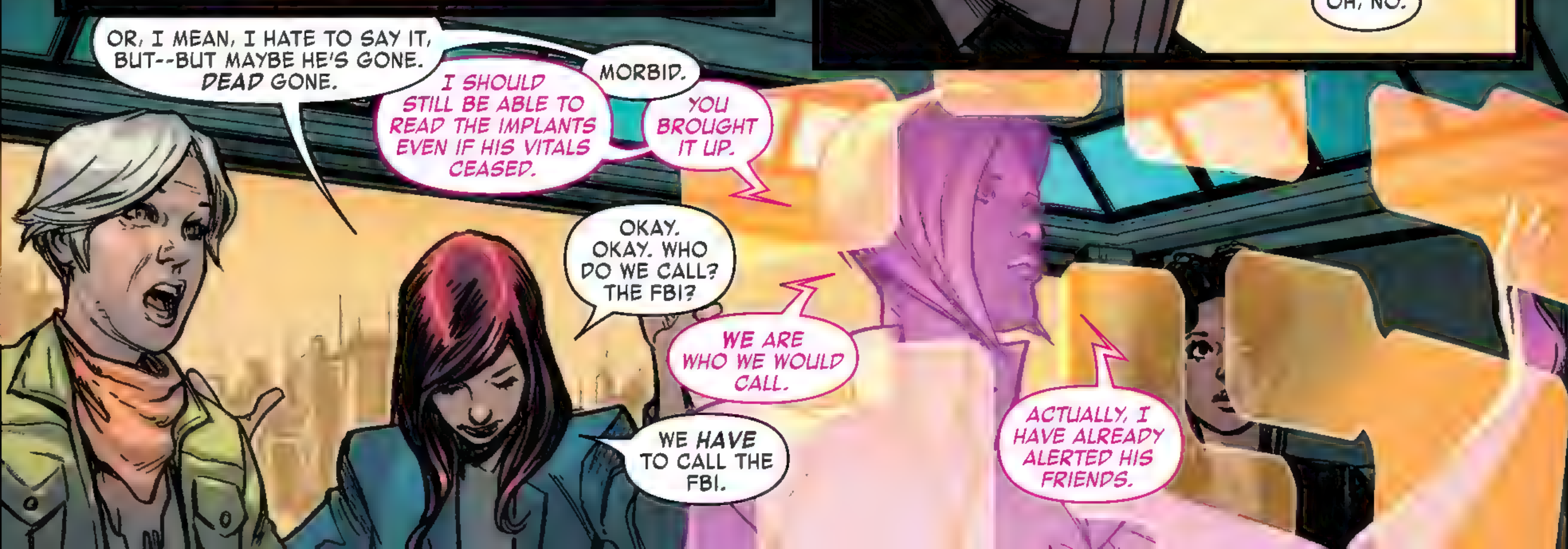
BUT NOW...
I CAN'T READ
THEM.



OH.

NOT
DETECTED.
SOMEONE SHUT
THEM DOWN OR
TOOK THEM
OUT OR--

OH, NO.



OR, I MEAN, I HATE TO SAY IT,
BUT--BUT MAYBE HE'S GONE.
DEAD GONE.

I SHOULD
STILL BE ABLE TO
READ THE IMPLANTS
EVEN IF HIS VITALS
CEASED.

MORBID.

YOU
BROUGHT
IT UP.

OKAY.
OKAY. WHO
DO WE CALL?
THE FBI?

WE ARE
WHO WE WOULD
CALL.

WE HAVE
TO CALL THE
FBI.

ACTUALLY, I
HAVE ALREADY
ALERTED HIS
FRIENDS.



"THE FACT THAT S.H.I.E.L.D. IS GONE MAKES SOME OF THIS HARDER AND, WELL, SOME OF THIS EASIER."

"SO IF HE HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED..."

"EXACTLY. MJ...TONY MAY BE ON TOP OF THIS."

"OR MAYBE HE'S 'NOT DEAD' BUT HE'S LYING SOMEWHERE SUPER CLOSE TO IT."

"SORRY, AMANDA."

"NO, YOU'RE RIGHT, RIRI."

"AND IF HE IS IN TROUBLE, WE NEED TO HELP HIM."



"WHY WOULD HE SNEAK OFF AND NOT TELL AT LEAST ONE OF US HE'S NOT DEAD?"

"WE ASSUME HE HAS HIS REASONS."

"NAME ONE."

"HE DOESN'T WANT TO."

"WELL, SURE."

"YEAH."

"I'M GOING TO THE PRESS."

"I'D ADVISE AGAINST IT, AMANDA."

"WHAT IF HE IS IN TROUBLE BUT A BLOODY SPOTLIGHT WOULD--"

"YOU WERE AN UNDERCOVER INTELLIGENCE AGENT, AMANDA."

"AND HERE'S SOMETHING PEOPLE ALWAYS FORGET..."



"...SO WAS TONY.

"HE WAS AN AGENT
OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

"HE USED TO BE DIRECTOR
OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

"HE KNOWS HOW TO
DISAPPEAR AND
MAY HAVE DONE SO
FOR A REASON."

"HOW WAS HE CAPABLE OF
STANDING UP AND WALKING OUT
WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING?"

"HE WAS
KIDNAPPED."

"IT'S A
CONUNDRUM."

"NOT REALLY."

"I'M SEARCHING
ALL LOCAL SECURITY
CAMERAS AND LOCAL--"

"FRIDAY!"



"DON'T HACK PEOPLE'S STUFF!"

"WE TALKED ABOUT THIS."

"I'M NOT HACKING, I'M PEEKING."

"AND, NOT TO BE RUDE, BUT YOU DIDN'T
FILL MY COMMAND PROGRAM, MARY JANE."

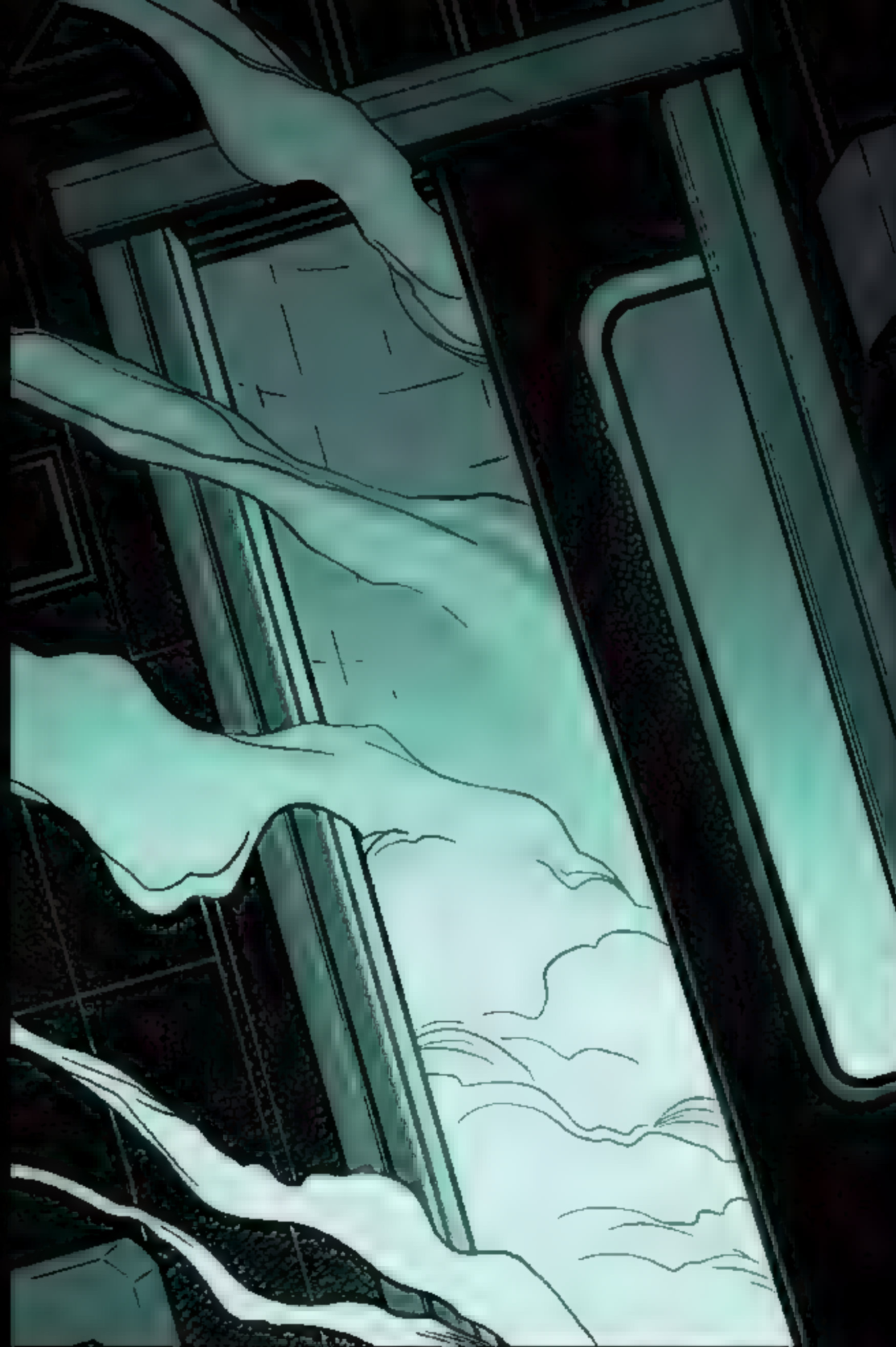
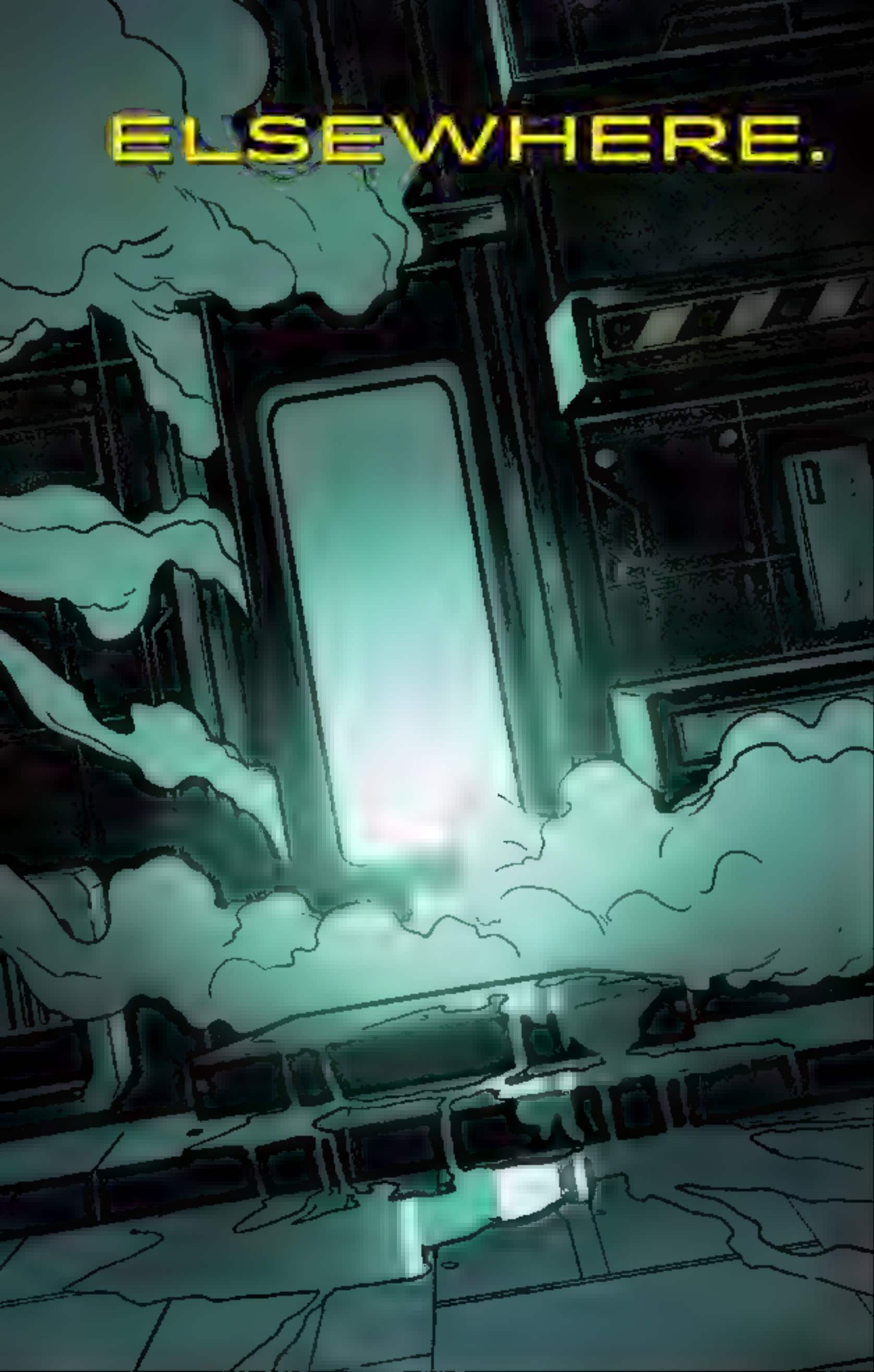
"I'M DOING WHAT
TONY STARK
PROGRAMMED
ME TO DO."

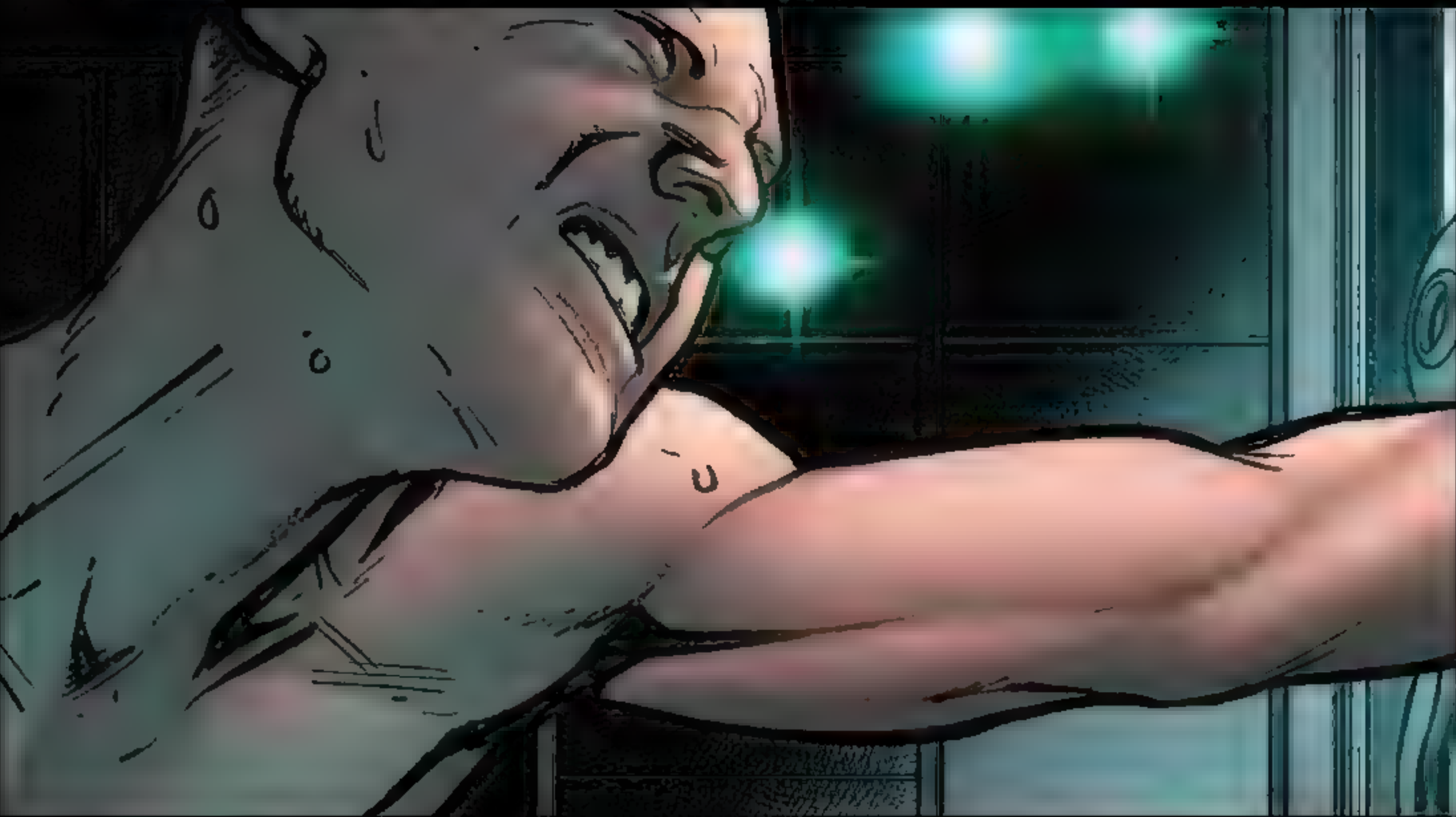
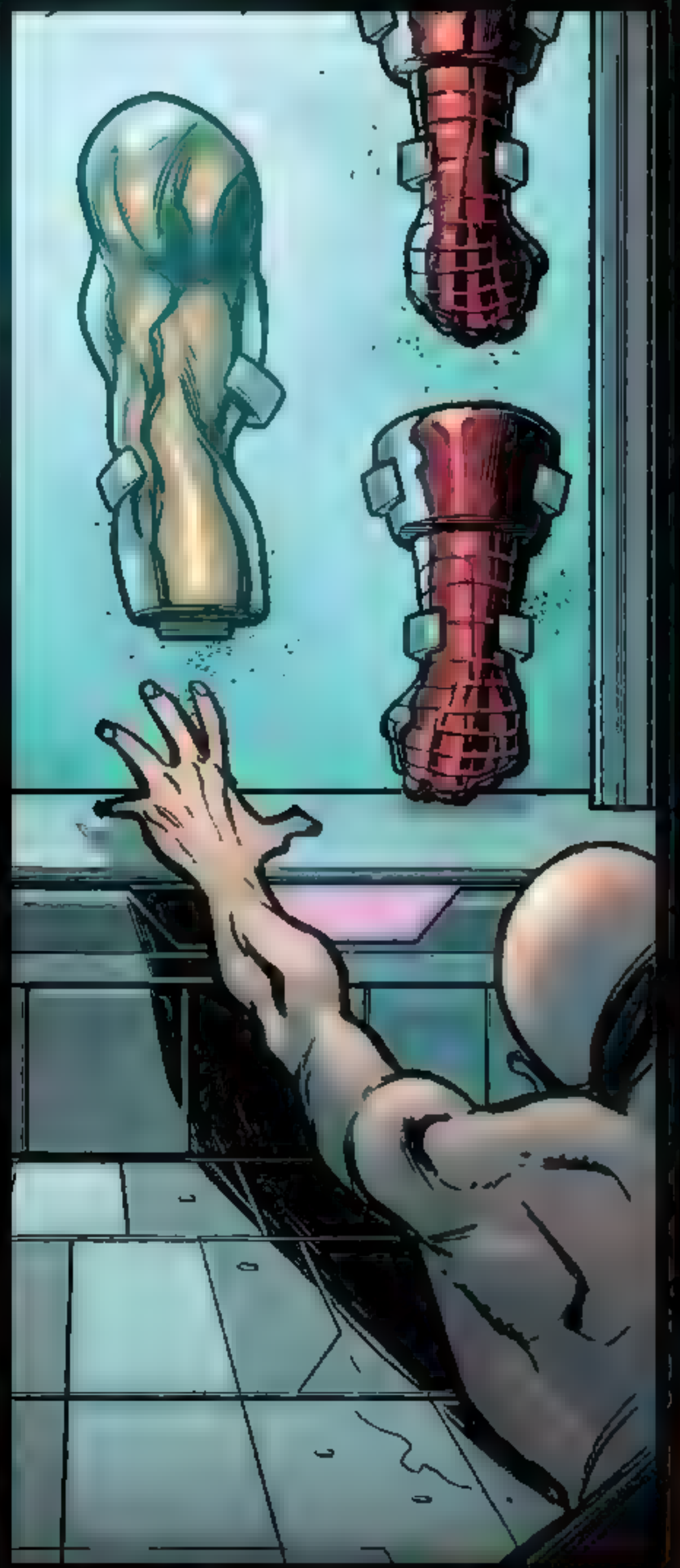
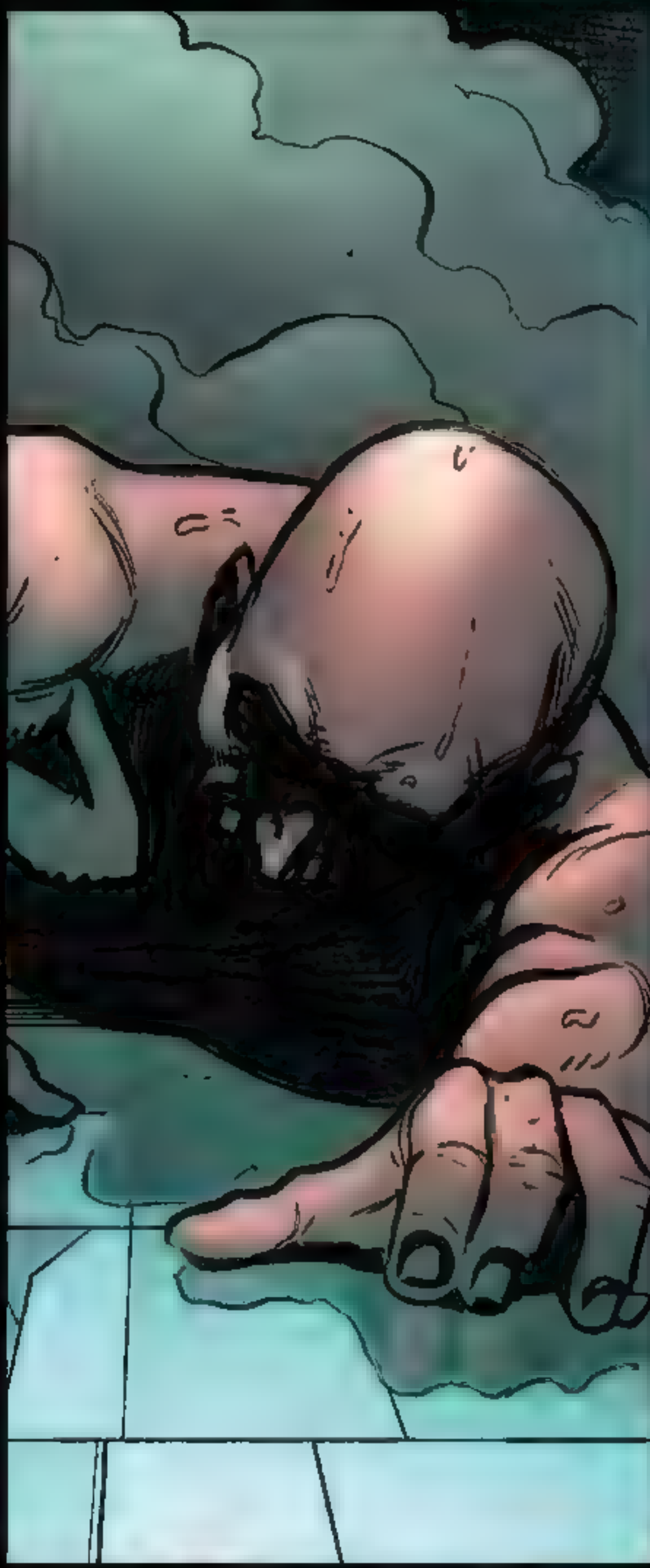
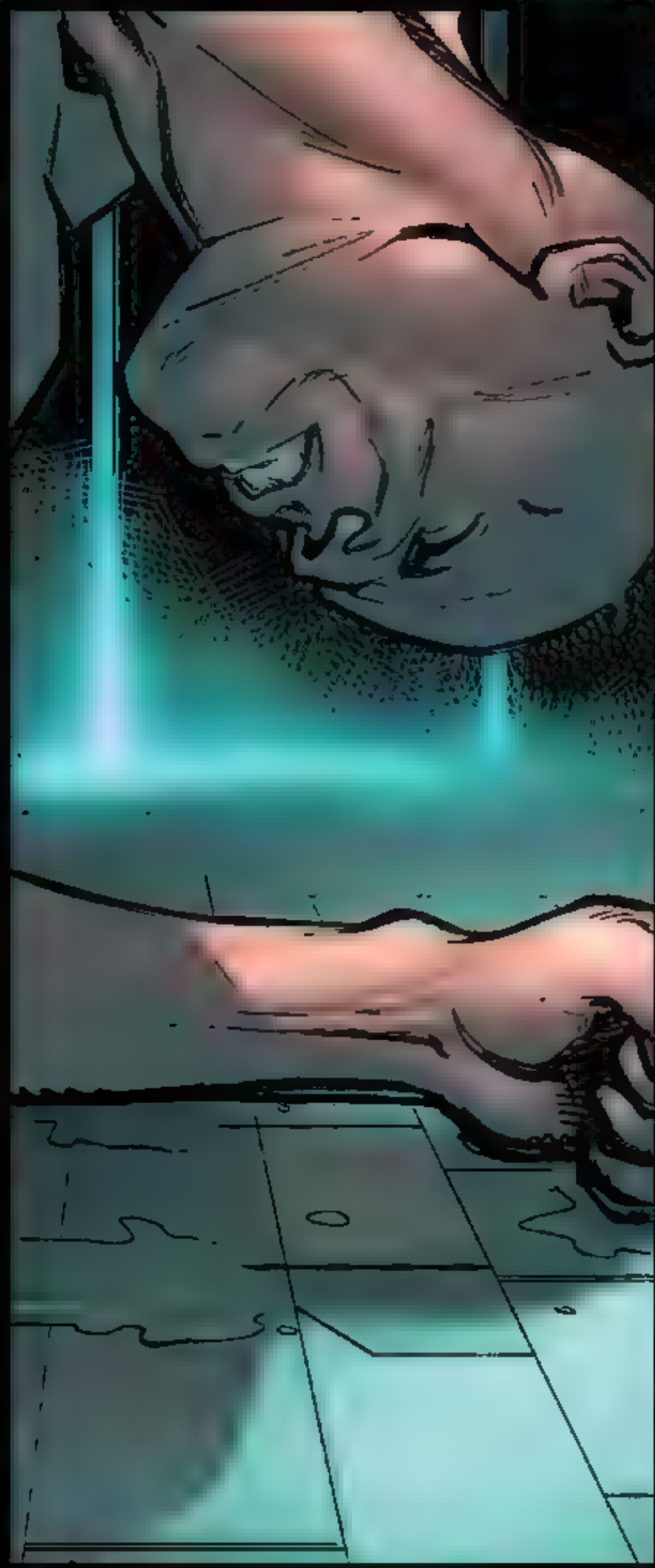
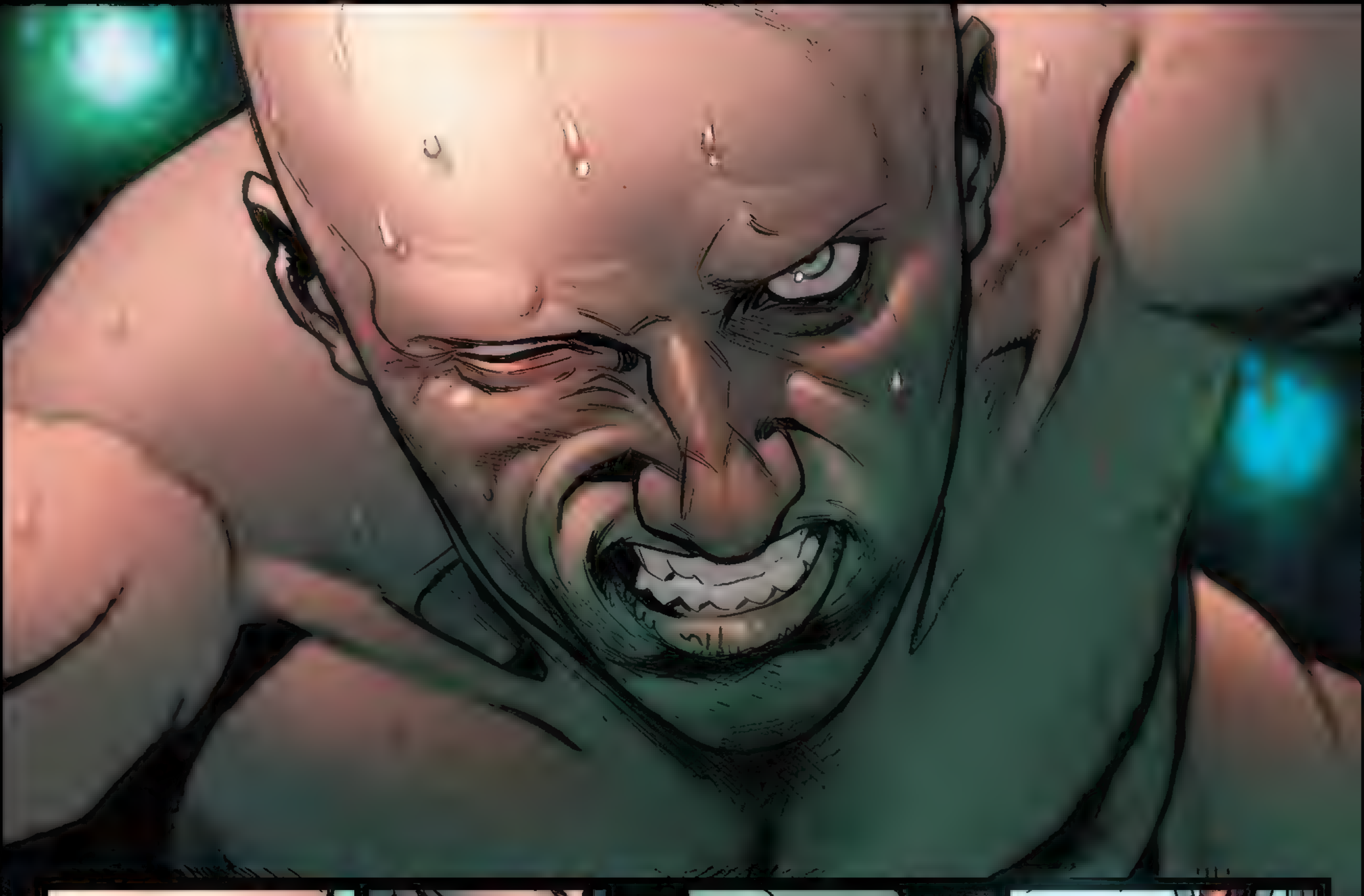
"IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
WE SHOULD CALL--
WE SHOULD CALL--"

"IF THE AVENGERS AND HIS OTHER FRIENDS CHASE DOWN THEIR LEADS
AND DON'T FIND ANYTHING...WE COULD CALL VICTOR VON DOOM."

EXCUSE
ME?

YOU
WANT TO CALL
DOCTOR
DOOM?
ON THE
PHONE?









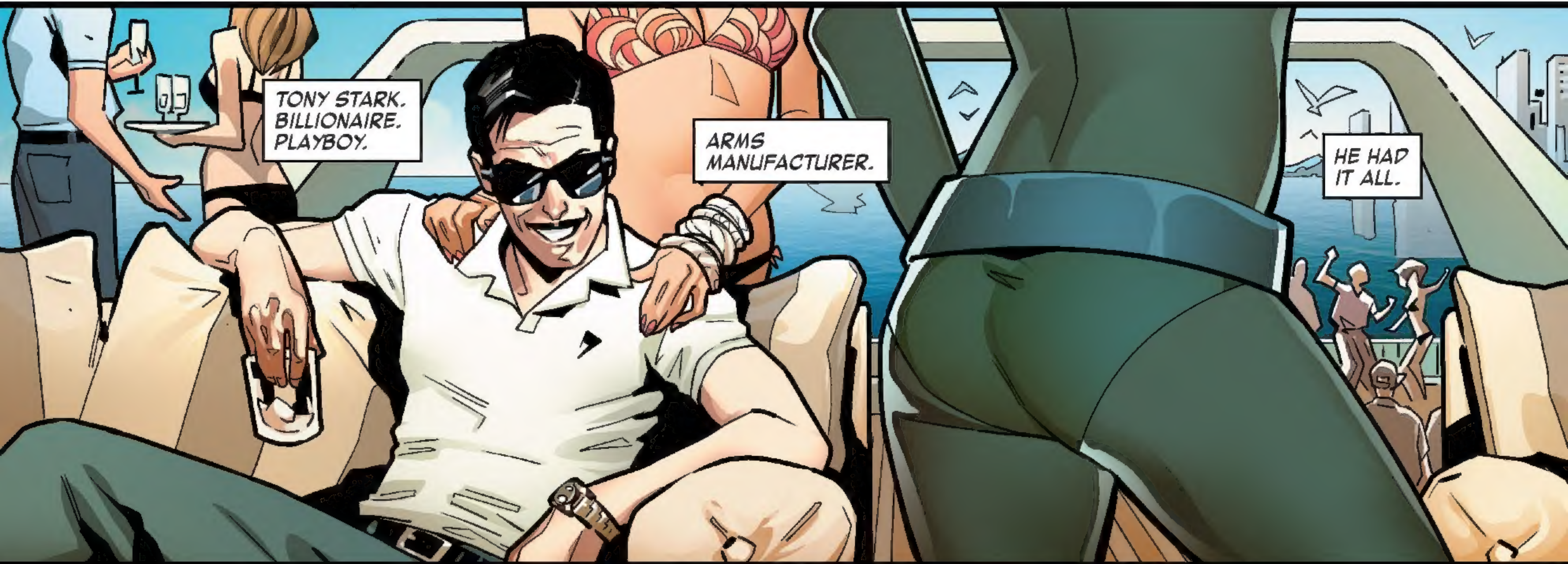
TO BE CONTINUED...

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WHO WEARS THE ARMOR?

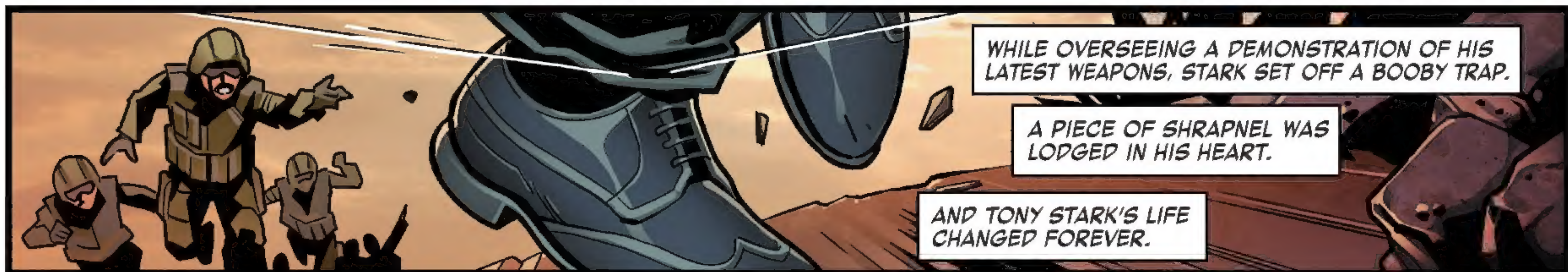
Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and don't forget to mark them "OKAY TO PRINT!"



TONY STARK.
BILLIONAIRE.
PLAYBOY.

ARMS
MANUFACTURER.

HE HAD
IT ALL.



WHILE OVERSEEING A DEMONSTRATION OF HIS
LATEST WEAPONS, STARK SET OFF A BOOBY TRAP.

A PIECE OF SHRAPNEL WAS
LODGED IN HIS HEART.

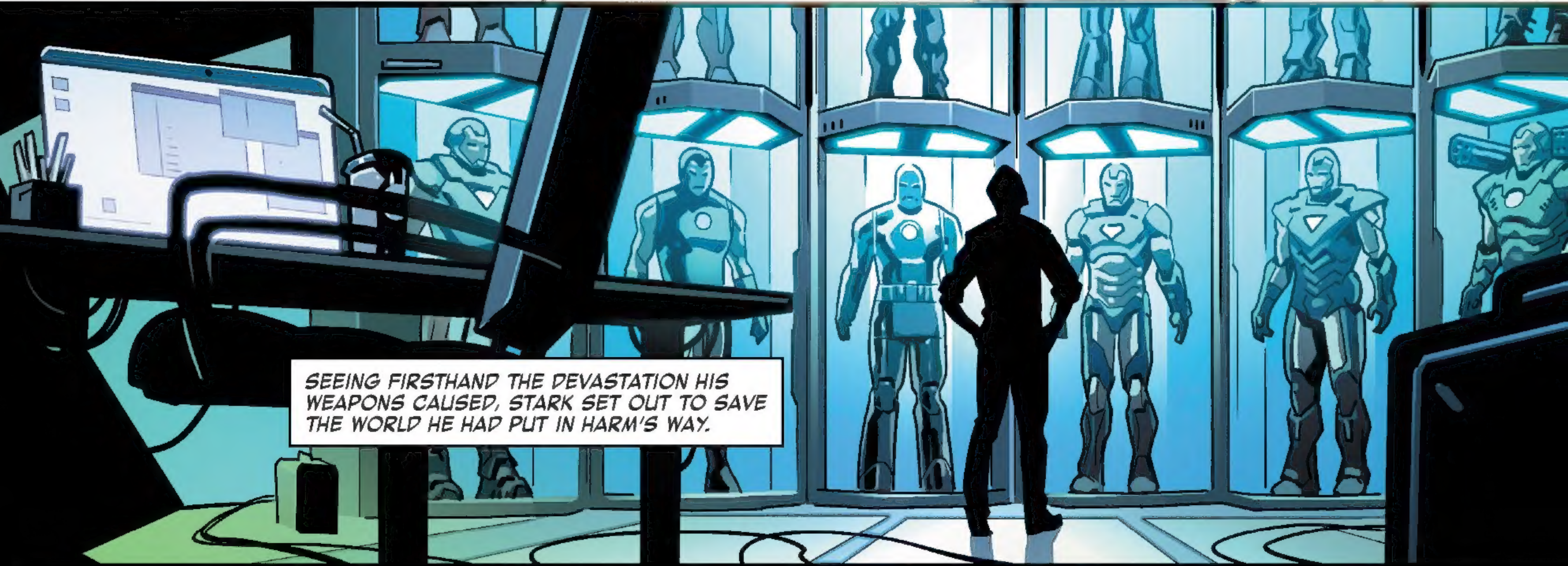
AND TONY STARK'S LIFE
CHANGED FOREVER.



TAKEN CAPTIVE BY A
RUTHLESS TERRORIST,
STARK WAS FORCED
TO BUILD WEAPONS
IN EXCHANGE FOR
HIS LIFE.

INSTEAD, TONY BUILT A SUIT OF ARMOR--A SUIT
THAT WOULD KEEP HIM ALIVE AND ALLOW HIM
TO ESCAPE. HE BECAME... THE INVINCIBLE

IRON MAN

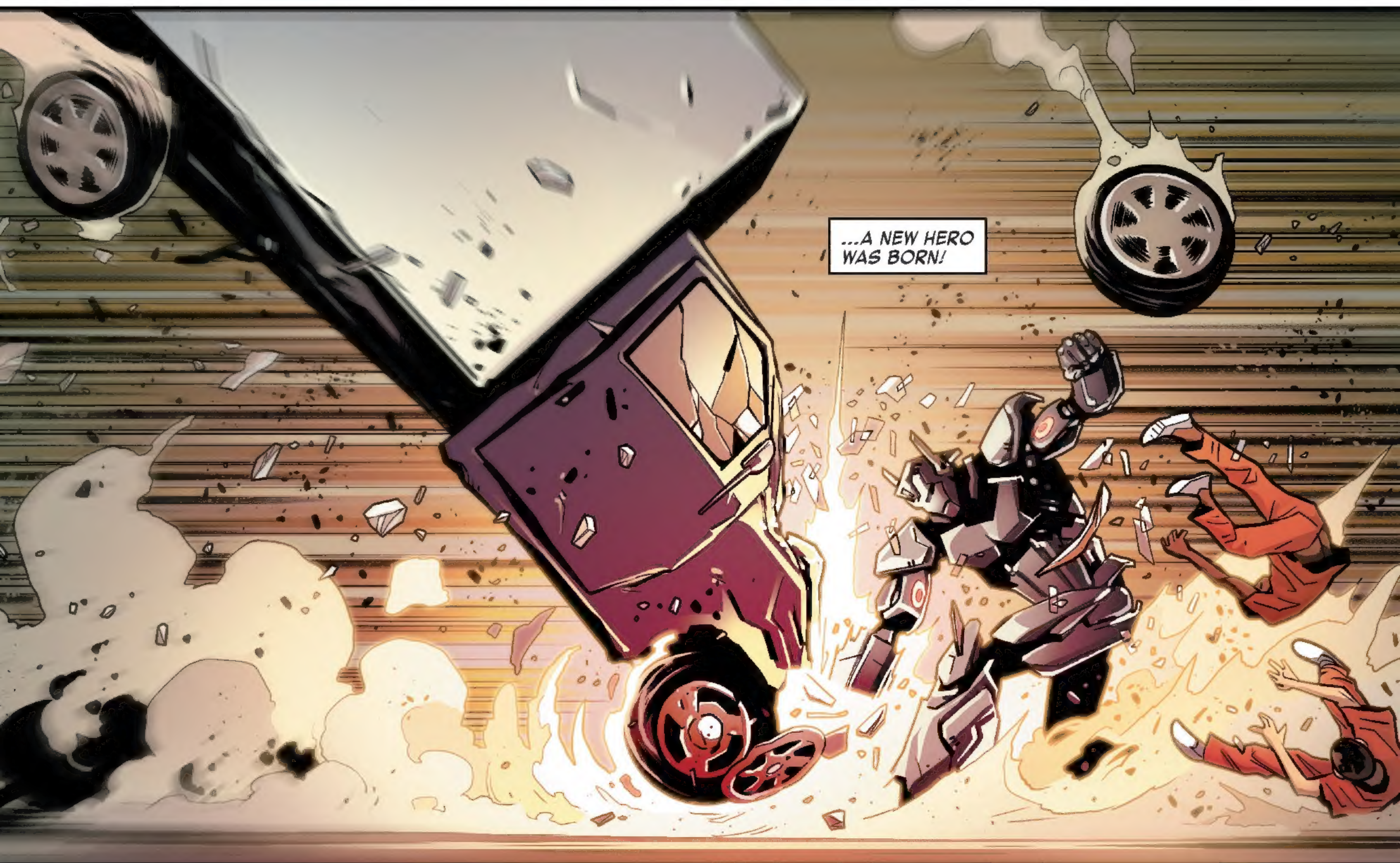


SEEING FIRSTHAND THE DEVASTATION HIS
WEAPONS CAUSED, STARK SET OUT TO SAVE
THE WORLD HE HAD PUT IN HARM'S WAY.

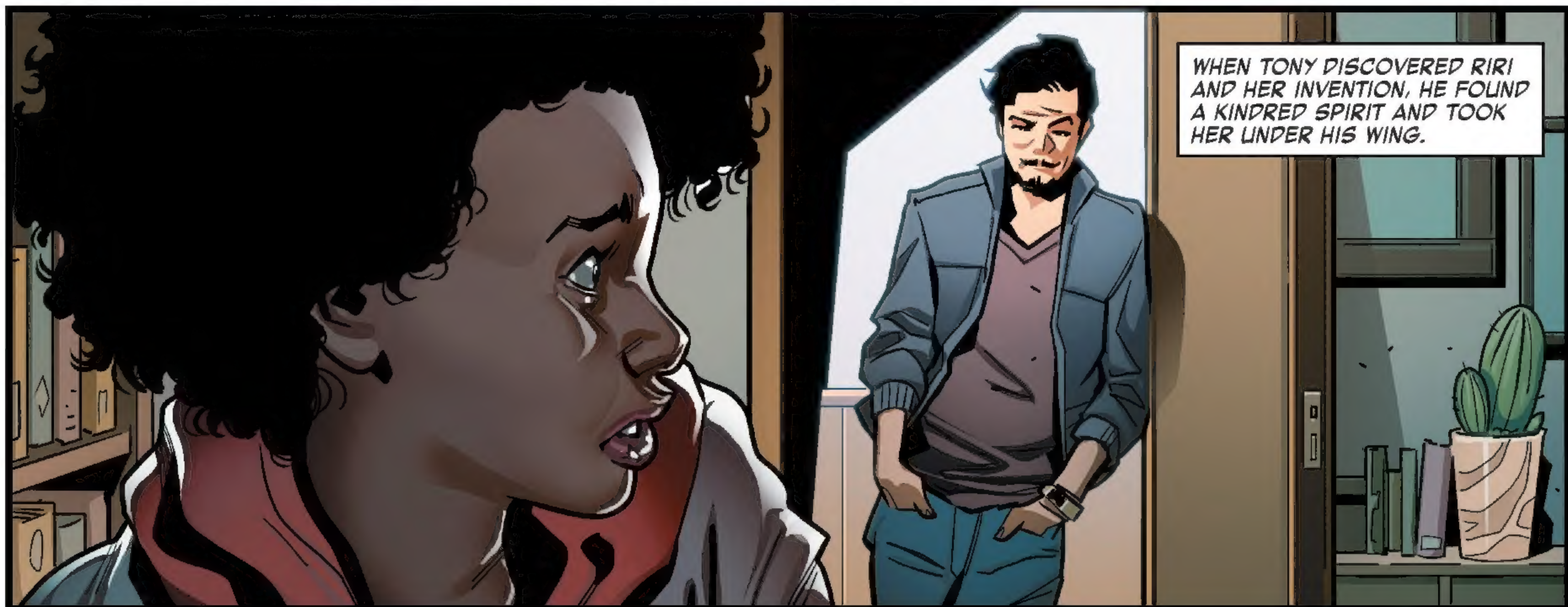


RIRI WILLIAMS. TEENAGED
PRODIGY. M.I.T. GENIUS.

LIKE TONY STARK BEFORE HER,
RIRI USED HER ADVANCED
INTELLECT TO BUILD HER OWN
ARMOR. WITH THIS SUIT...



...A NEW HERO
WAS BORN!



WHEN TONY DISCOVERED RIRI
AND HER INVENTION, HE FOUND
A KINDRED SPIRIT AND TOOK
HER UNDER HIS WING.

TONY CREATED AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT LOOKS, SOUNDS AND IS ALMOST AS SMART AS HE IS--THIS A.I. ASSISTS RIRI AS SHE CONTINUES HER JOURNEY AS...

...IRONHEART

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